

# NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



**Interpretation Number:** 03-02

**Date:** 08-04

**Pamphlet Number:** NFPA 96, 2001 Ed.

**Section(s):** 1.1.4, 4.1.1, 4.1.9, 10.1.2

**Comments:**

Applicable to new installations and to existing installations where the Authority Having Jurisdiction determines that a life safety hazard exists.

**Question:** Under what conditions is cooking equipment required to provide exhaust and/or fire extinguishing systems?

**Response:** Any cooking equipment used for commercial cooking that produces smoke or grease-laden vapors shall be equipped with an exhaust system (hood, ducts, ventilation). Cooking equipment used for commercial cooking that creates grease-laden vapors must be protected by an automatic fire-extinguishing system meeting NFPA 96, and portable fire extinguishers in accordance with NFPA 10.

Residential cooking equipment is not required to provide exhaust or fire-extinguishing systems under the following conditions:

1. The cooking equipment is used for warming or limited cooking only. No frying is conducted; and
2. Portable fire extinguishers shall be placed in the kitchen in accordance with NFPA 10; and
3. The facility is not an assembly occupancy as defined in the Life Safety Code.

Residential stovetops used for occasional special events in assembly occupancies, or mobile concession trailers can be protected by a residential style fire suppression system rather than a complete commercial system meeting the requirements of UL300 and NFPA 96. This allowance applies to stovetops only. Deep-fat fryers must be protected per NFPA 96.

This interpretation does not apply to individual dwelling units such as homes and apartments.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal